

REMARKS

The present application has been carefully studied and amended in view of the outstanding Office Action dated May 19, 2005, and reconsideration of that Action is requested in view of the following comments.

A petition for a three-month extension of time accompanies this response together with the appropriate fee. Accordingly, the deadline for responding to the Office Action has been extended until November 21, 2005 (November 19 being a Saturday), and this response is therefore timely filed since it was deposited in the mail for First Class Delivery Service on the date certified on the front page hereof.

Moreover, since this response is being filed with a Request for Continued Prosecution, there is no problem with any new issues that may be raised with the claim changes and additions.

The amendment to claim 1 finds support in the specification at page 8, lines 19-21. Also, new claim 18 finds support in the specification at page 7, line 30 through page 8, line 1.

As none of the cited references teaches the invention as presently claimed, the rejections should be withdrawn. By the strong adhesion between the seal and the paper core as presently claimed the anti-counterfeit property of a paper based chip card is significantly enhanced over known cards.

With respect to the feature "seal which is at least 5% smaller than the main surface", applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner, that "thin" can be interpreted as "small" in terms of surface. When reading about a thickness, the "very thin" has to our knowledge in this context no other meaning, a person skilled in the art

will always understand it in the "thickness" direction and not related to the coverage-percentage of a surface. In addition, the "very thin" layers cited by the Examiner are taught by Haghiri to be within the core (Figure 5, layers 11) and not to cover the main surface as now set forth in new claim 17.

The application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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